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amnesty international
INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
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URGENT ACTION

EXTERNAL (for general distribution) **AI Index: ASA 21/01/90**
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UA 30/90 **Ill-Treatment** **22 January 1990**

EAST TIMOR/INDONESIA: At least 100 peaceful protesters dispersed

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Several people were seriously injured on 16 January 1990 when Indonesian security forces dispersed an apparently peaceful pro- independence demonstration by East Timorese. There were unconfirmed reports that one person had died. The demonstration took place at the Hotel Turismo in Dili.

The identity of the victims was not immediately known, but an eye-witness said that he saw at least two bodies, both bloodied and limp, being put in a truck after the demonstration. Another eye-witness said that at least one young East Timorese man had been shot in the abdomen and died soon afterwards, but this report could not be confirmed. Diplomatic sources confirmed that at least three people were taken to hospital, two of them with serious head injuries.

According to reports, at least 100 East Timorese, most of them students, entered the Hotel Turismo, where the US ambassador to Indonesia, John Monjo, was staying during a visit, carrying banners asking for East Timor's independence and for investigations into human rights violations by Indonesian security forces. An eye-witness said the demonstrators "...were just pleading for the ambassador to do something for their case". Ambassador Monjo is said to have spoken to the demonstrators for about one hour, but an eye- witness said that as soon as he left, "the military and the police [attacked] them with rifle butts, booting them and using batons". On hearing that the actions of the security forces had resulted in "some injuries", a US Embassy spokesperson said, "we sincerely regret this... In view of the peaceful nature of the demonstration the ambassador [had] asked that no one be arrested or detained."

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Dozens of East Timorese have been detained for their alleged part in a series of pro-independence demonstrations over the last four months. The recent wave of protests began with a demonstration during the visit of Pope John Paul II to the territory on 12 October, after which several people were briefly detained (see UA 401/89, ASA 21/13/89, 17 October). Many of the detainees are said to have been released after questioning but some are reported to have been ill-treated while in detention. It is believed that at least ten remained in various military detention centres in December 1989, though Indonesian authorities have denied that any remain in custody.

In spite of the "opening" of East Timor to tourism and commerce in January 1989, Amnesty International has continued to receive reports of grave human rights violations in the territory. Most of the victims have been alleged supporters of Fretilin (Frente Revolucionario de Timor Leste) or other groups seeking East Timor's independence from Indonesia, whose forces invaded the territory in 1975 in the aftermath of Portugal's withdrawal from its former territory.

Telephone: 01-833 1771 Fax: 01-956 1157 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of human rights. It seeks the *release* of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed *prisoners of conscience*. It works for *fair and prompt trials* for *all political prisoners* and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the *death penalty* and *torture* or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of *all prisoners*.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/airmail letters:

- expressing concern at reports of the serious injury of peaceful demonstrators as a consequence of beatings by members of the Indonesian security forces in Dili, East Timor, on 16 January 1990;

- seeking confirmation of these reports, and in particular the names of those demonstrators who were arrested or injured;

- suggesting an immediate inquiry into these reports and asking to be kept informed of the results.

APPEALS TO:

Ir. Mario Carrascalao
Gubernur KDH Tk. 1 Timor Timur
Jl. Inpantai D. Hendrikue Dili
East Timor

(Governor of East Timor)

Telegrams: Gubernur Carrascalao, Dili, East Timor

May. Jen. Sintong Panjaitan
Pangdam IX Udayana
Markas Besar KODAM IX Udayana
Denpasar, Bali
Indonesia

(Regional Military Commander)

Telegrams: May. Jen. Sintong Panjaitan,
Pangdam IX, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia

Ali Alatas S.H.
Menteri Luar Negeri
Jalan Taman Prejambon 6
Jakarta, Indonesia

(Minister of Foreign Affairs)

Telegrams: Ali Alatas, Menteri Luar
Negeri, Jakarta, Indonesia

COPIES TO:

Jakarta Post
PO Box 85 Palmerah
Jakarta 11001
Indonesia

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 March 1990.

— Please take action as soon as you receive this Urgent Action appeal. Carefully read the recommended action. If possible, send a telegram or express letter immediately to one or more of the addresses given. Other letters can be sent afterwards.

— Telegrams and letters should be brief and courteous. Stress that your concern for human rights is not in any way politically partisan. Refer to relevant provisions in international law, such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Article 3 — "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

Article 5 — "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Article 9 — "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."

— The name of Amnesty International may be used, although letters written in a private or personal capacity may be more effective.

— Copies of appeals should be sent to relevant diplomatic representatives in your country.

— In Urgent Action cases, Amnesty International has to act rapidly to prevent the ill-treatment of prisoners. An appeal is issued when Amnesty International believes it has received reliable and accurate information in such cases. It is not always possible to verify all details independently and in some instances the situation outlined in the appeal may change. Urgent Action participants are always notified of any significant new facts.

— Copies of any replies received from government authorities should be sent immediately to your section's Urgent Action coordinator or direct to the Campaign and Membership Department of the International Secretariat. If appropriate, thank the official who has replied and ask to be kept informed about the case.